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Thailand

Grain and Feed

Weekly Rice Price Update

2004

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Report Highlights:

Export prices of non-fragrant rice continued to increase, mainly due to the aggressive shipment of parboiled rice.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Bangkok [TH1]
[TH]

Indicative Prices (Week Ending Aug 9):

Thailand: Export (FOB) Prices for various grades of rice (USD/M.T.)									
	Exporter Observations							Period Avg.	
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	CUR.	PRV.
F WR 100 B	400	370	446	424	415	390	370	402	413
WR 100 B	245	247	248	240	248	246	245	246	242
PB 5%	245	250	253	255	268	264	250	255	249
WR 5%	240	242	242	235	243	241	240	240	238
WR 10%	237	237	237	232	240	239	235	237	234
WR 15%	236	235	232	230	237	237	230	234	231
WR 25%	231	232	231	225	230	230	225	229	227
WR 35%	227	230	230	223	228	228	220	227	224
A 1 SUP	215	215	221	212	220	213	215	216	215
A 1 SPEC	214	214	220	210	219	-	213	215	214
Source: Average actual prices received from exporters									

Market Tone

Export prices for non-fragrant rice continued to surge, mainly in response to the pending shipment demand for parboiled rice and white rice. Prices of parboiled rice increased significantly, following current aggressive loading activity of parboiled rice for shipment to Nigeria. Meanwhile, shipments of white rice for Iran and Iraq's outstanding contract are reportedly going on. Also, the government's new intervention price of about 1,000 Baht/ton higher than the previous year's price strengthened domestic prices.

Regarding the upward revision of the Thai Commerce Ministry's rice export target from 8.5 million tons to 9.0 million ton in CY 2004, some major Thai rice exporters remained pessimistic due to their current weak new order demand, particularly for white rice. Also, the current shipment of parboiled rice to African countries, which partly boosted the export volume in July to a record around 997,100 tons, will likely fall off to a less aggressive level, once the Ramadan starts in October.

As for fragrant rice, prices continued to decline in response to the competition from the relatively cheaper "Pathumthani 1" fragrant rice, for which the government policy remained uncertain in its classification. The official sources reported that exports of "Pathumthani 1" fragrant rice amounted to around 84,837 tons during Jan. 1 – Jul. 15, 2004.

The following are reported rice exports (as is basis):

WEEK ENDING	QUANTITY	4-WK AVG	YEAR TO DATE	YEAR AGO
	(MT)	(MT)	(TMT)	(TMT)
JUN 20	181,515	172,333	3,283	1,985
JUN 27	179,774	177,860	3,463	2,080
JUL 4	210,928	187,739	3,674	2,184
JUL 11	161,618	183,459	3,836	2,287
JUL 18	178,271	182,648	4,014	2,413
JUL 25	197,424	187,060	4,212	2,524
AUG 1	188,845	181,539	4,400	2,658
AUG 8	146,493	177,758	4,547	2,799

Note on data: Export figures since March 22, 2002, do not include fragrant rice. The authority to report fragrant rice exports was moved from the Thai Board of Trade to the Ministry of Commerce's Office of Commodity Standards, which does not release official fragrant rice export data. FAS/BKK will report only official export numbers from the Board of Trade for non-fragrant and from the Office of Commodity Standards for fragrant rice when available, but the reader should bear in mind the difference between the data.

Unofficial exports (excluding fragrant rice) for Aug. 2-8, 2004 totaled 146,493 tons, down 42,351 tons from the previous week's total and down 31,265 tons from the four-week moving average of 177,758 tons. Exports during Jan. 1 – Aug. 8, 2004 totaled 4,546,849 tons, compared with 2,799,352 tons during the same period in 2003.

According to the Department of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, total rice exports (including fragrant rice) during Jan. 1- Jul. 31, 2004, amounted to 5.6 million tons, up 43 percent from the same period in the previous year.

Weekly Rice Sales

Private registered rice export sales for the period of Jul. 19-23, Jul. 26-30, and Aug. 2-6, 2004 are as follows:

Movement (MT)	Jul. 19-23	Jul. 26-30	Aug. 2-6
weekly sales	203,947	173,052	25,845
4 week sum	684,435	753,926	579,960
4 week mov. avg.	171,109	188,482	144,990
Total weekly sales	5,043,436	5,216,488	5,242,333

End of Report.